

IN THE CLAIMS:

A full listing of the claims, including any amendments made by this paper, follows below:

1. (Currently Amended) A height adjustable protective garment comprising:

an outer shell shaped to fit about and substantially cover the chest, torso and legs of a wearer and having a waist portion shaped to be located at or adjacent to a waist of a wearer
wherein said outer shell is abrasion, flame and heat resistant and resists igniting, burning, melting, dripping or separation when exposed to a temperature of 500° F for at least five minutes; and

an adjusting strip having an attachment portion directly or indirectly coupled to said outer shell and a free end which is generally spaced apart from said attachment portion, said free end being releasably attachable to said outer shell or to said adjusting strip of material to adjust the height of said protective garment, said adjusting strip being located at or adjacent to said waist portion, and wherein said adjusting strip is located on an outer surface of said outer shell such that said adjusting strip can be easily accessed when said outer shell is worn.

2. (Original) The garment of claim 1 wherein said adjusting strip includes a base portion fixedly coupled to said outer shell and spaced apart from said attachment portion, and wherein said attachment portion is located between said base portion and said free end.

3. (Currently Amended) The garment of claim 1 wherein said adjusting strip is shaped and located such that when said free end is releasably attached to said outer shell or to said adjusting strip of material the attachment portion pulls the portions of said outer shell to which said attachment portion is coupled generally upwardly to reduce the height of said garment.

4. (Original) The garment of claim 1 wherein said adjusting strip is formed in a generally closed loop shape when said free end is releasably attached to said outer shell or to said adjusting strip.

5. (Original) The garment of claim 4 wherein said adjusting strip is releasably attachable to itself to form said generally closed loop shape.

6. (Currently Amended) The garment of claim 5 wherein said adjusting strip includes first and second portions of hook and loop fastening material which are releasably attached when said adjusting strip of material is formed into said generally closed loop shape.

7. (Previously Presented) The garment of claim 6 wherein said adjusting strip includes a base portion fixedly coupled to said outer shell and spaced apart from said attachment portion, said attachment portion being located between said base portion and said free end, and wherein said first portion of hook and loop fastening material is located on or adjacent to said base portion and wherein said second portion of hook and loop fastening material is located on or adjacent to said free end.

8. (Original) The garment of claim 4 wherein said adjusting strip is releasably attachable to said outer shell to form said generally closed loop shape.

9. (Previously Presented) The garment of claim 8 wherein said garment includes first and second portions of hook and loop fastening material which are releasably attachable to form said adjusting strip into said generally closed loop shape, and wherein said first portion of hook and loop fastening material is located on said outer shell and wherein said second portion of hook and loop fastening material is located on or adjacent to said free end.

10. (Original) The garment of claim 1 wherein said garment has a central axis extending generally perpendicular to the waist of said garment, and wherein said adjusting strip is oriented generally parallel to said central axis.

11. (Currently Amended) A height adjustable protective garment comprising:
an outer shell shaped to fit about and substantially cover the chest, torso and legs
of a wearer and having a waist portion shaped to be located at or adjacent to a waist of a wearer;
and

an adjusting strip having an attachment portion directly or indirectly coupled to
said outer shell and a free end which is generally spaced apart from said attachment portion, said
free end being releasably attachable to said outer shell or to said adjusting strip to adjust the
height of said protective garment, said adjusting strip being located at or adjacent to said waist
portion, and wherein said adjusting strip is located on an outer surface of said outer shell such
that said adjusting strip can be easily accessed when said outer shell is worn, said garment
having a central axis extending generally perpendicular to the waist of said garment, and wherein
said adjusting strip is oriented generally parallel to said central axis, and The garment of claim
10 wherein said adjusting strip includes a base portion fixedly coupled to said outer shell and
spaced apart from said attachment portion, and wherein said attachment portion is located
between said base portion and said free end, and wherein said adjusting strip further comprises a
retaining loop fixedly coupled to said outer shell and located over said attachment portion to
indirectly couple said attachment portion to said outer shell.

12. (Original) The garment of claim 11 wherein said retaining loop is oriented generally perpendicular to said central axis.

13. (Original) The garment of claim 11 wherein said retaining loop has a pair of ends, each end being fixedly coupled to said shell on opposite sides of said adjusting strip.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The garment of claim ~~14~~ 1 wherein said outer shell includes a material selected from a group consisting of an aramid material, a blend of aramid materials, a polybenzamidazole material, and a blend of aramid and polybenzamidazole materials.

17. (Currently Amended) The garment of claim ~~14~~ 1 further comprising a moisture barrier located generally inside of said outer shell such that when said garment is worn said moisture barrier is located generally between said outer shell and a wearer of said garment, said moisture barrier being generally co-extensive with said outer shell and being made of a material that is generally liquid impermeable and generally moisture vapor permeable.

18. (Original) The garment of claim 17 wherein said moisture barrier includes expanded polytetrafluoroethylene.

19. (Original) The garment of claim 17 further comprising a thermal liner located generally inside said outer shell such that when said garment is worn said thermal liner is located generally between said outer shell and a wearer of said garment.

20. (Original) The garment of claim 19 wherein said moisture barrier is generally located between said outer shell and said thermal liner.

21. (Original) The garment of claim 19 wherein said thermal liner includes a material selected from a group consisting of an aramid needlepunch material, an aramid batting material, an aramid non-woven material, an aramid-blend needlepunch material, an aramid-blend batting material and an aramid-blend non-woven material.

22. (Original) The garment of claim 19 further comprising a face cloth layer located inside of said thermal liner and located to be the innermost layer of said garment.

23. (Currently Amended) A height adjustable protective garment comprising:
an outer shell shaped to fit about and substantially cover the chest, torso and legs
of a wearer and having a waist portion shaped to be located at or adjacent to a waist of a wearer;
and

an adjusting strip having an attachment portion directly or indirectly coupled to
said outer shell and a free end which is generally spaced apart from said attachment portion, said
free end being releasably attachable to said outer shell or to said adjusting strip to adjust the
height of said protective garment, said adjusting strip being located at or adjacent to said waist
portion, and wherein said adjusting strip is located on an outer surface of said outer shell such
that said adjusting strip can be easily accessed when said outer shell is worn, The garment of
~~claim 1~~
wherein said garment includes a plurality of adjusting strips each having a base portion
fixedly coupled to said outer shell, an attachment portion directly or indirectly coupled to said
outer shell at a location spaced apart from said base portion, and a free end which is generally
spaced apart from said attachment portion, said free end of each adjusting strip being releasably
attachable to said outer shell or to the associated adjusting strip of material to adjust the height of
said protective garment, and wherein said adjusting strips are spaced about said waist of said
garment such that at least one of said plurality of adjusting strips is located on a rear portion of
said outer shell and at least one of said plurality of adjusting strips is located on an opposed front
portion of said outer shell.

24-39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously Presented) The garment of claim 1 wherein said free end is generally spaced apart from said attachment portion along a length of said adjusting strip.

41. (Previously Presented) The garment of claim 1 wherein said outer shell includes a front portion and a rear portion, and wherein said attachment portion is located on one of said front or rear portions, and wherein said free end is configured to be releasably attachable to said one of said front or rear portions of said outer shell or to said attachment portion.

42. (Previously Presented) The garment of claim 4 wherein said adjusting strip is spaced away from a crotch of said garment when said adjusting strip is formed in said generally closed loop.

43. (Previously Presented) The garment of claim 1 wherein said adjusting strip is coupled to said outer shell at a base portion and has a length that is less than the distance between said base portion and a crotch of said garment.

44-47. (Canceled)

48. (Previously Presented) The garment of claim 1 wherein said outer shell is a one-piece garment and is configured to fit around and substantially cover the arms of a wearer.

49. (Previously Presented) The garment of claim 1 wherein said outer shell includes a pair of pant legs, each pant leg being shaped and configured to receive a leg of a wearer therethrough.

50. (Previously Presented) The garment of claim 1 wherein said outer shell includes or defines an inner cavity shaped to receive a wearer therein when said outer shell is configured in a proper orientation, and wherein said outer shell includes an inner surface located adjacent to and defining said inner cavity and wherein said outer surface is positioned on an opposite side of said outer shell relative to said inner cavity.

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51-60. (Canceled)